Recent assessment about the demand and indigenous supply position of coal over the next decade made by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Coal shows a gap of 30.06 million tonnes, 162.28 million tonnes and 260.30 million tonnes during 2001-02, 2006-07 and 2011-12, respectively. Public sector alone will not be able to mobilize adequate resources to step up coal prodution to meet the ever increasing demand. The Central Government have, therefore, decided to allow Indian companies to do coal mining without the restriction of captive consumption, and to engage in exploration of coal, subject to appropriate legislative changes.

(d) Some trade union organisations have been opposing the opening up of various areas of national economy, including coal, to the private sector. The All India Workers' Federation, a trade union organisation affiliated to CITU, went on strike from 20th November, 2000 to 22nd November, 2000 in support of a number of demands which included opposition to the private sector's entry in coal mining.

(e) and (f) The proposed amendment to Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, does not seek to privatise the existing public sector coal companies but seeks to augment production of coal in the country by allowing the Indian companies both in public as well as private sector to do non-captive coal mining to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of coal at the end of Xth and XIth Plan periods.

**Mines Rescue Stations**

1155. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mines Rescue Stations were working under a separate organization in the past;

(b) if so, whether they were handed over to Coal India Ltd. by Government;

(c) if the answer to (b) is positive the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in the rescue organization the work was allotted to workers by rotation;

(e) if so, whether it has affected the rescue organization in coal mines; and

(f) The steps being taken to ensure proper rescue operations for coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the provisions of the

Mines Act, 1952 read with the Coal Mines Rescue Rules—1959, as amended from time to time, the coal mines rescue stations were being administered through the Central Coal Mines Rescue Stations Committee under the Ministry of Labour.

(b) In 1983, the Government of India, in accordance with the recomendations made by the third conference on safety in mines, decided to vest the responsibility for the rescue and recovery work on the mines management. The Mines Act, 1952 was amended to provide for framing new rescue rules and making it obligatory for managements to establish, maintain and manage rescue stations themselves. This amendment came into effect on 31-5-1984. The Ministry of Labour *vide* Memo No. W-12025 / 7 / 83-M.I. dated 28-3-85 transferred the rescue station to Ministry of Coal. The Coal Mines Rescue Rules, 1959 was replaced by the Mines Rescue Rules, 1985. Which came into effect from 1.4.1985. With the coming into effect of the new rescue rules, the Central Coal Mines Rescue Stations Committee ceased to exist and the rescue stations along with their staff, officers and equipment were transferred to the coal companies by the Ministry of Coal.

(c) With the growth of the coal industry the need for expansion of the rescue organization with enhanced facility was felt. In the third conference on safety in mines held on 15 / 16 July, 1975 it was recommended that the companies should establish their own rescue stations. The rescue stations needed large scale revamping and a large number of new rescue stations and rescue rooms were urgently required to be set up.

(d) Active rescue trained persons (workers) employed at rescue stations are kept in all the three shifts in rotation.

(e) No, Sir. It has not affected the rescue organization in the mines. When any emergent situation arises in the mines rescue trained persons attend the rescue and recovery work immediately without delay and continue to attend the said work whenever they are called till rescue and recovery work is completed.

(f) The taken over rescue stations of the erstwhile CCMRSC needed large scale revamping and a large number of rescue stations and rescue rooms were required to be set up to provide necessary rescue services to the operating underground coal mines in compliance of the Mines Rules, 1985. With this objective in view CIL constituted an expert committee to suggest a comprehensive plan for modernization of the rescue services. Based on the recommendations of this committee detailed project reports for modernization

of rescue stations and construction of new ones were drawn up for implementation. Compliance of statutory requirement of having rescue stations(RS) / rescue rooms (RR) within 35 km. of each operating U/G mine was kept in view while deciding sites of these rescue stations.

The Government of India constituted a Committee (Dubey Committee) which approved the locations of different rescue stations/RRs in different subsidiaries and also recommended the broad type of main rescue equipment to be provided in RS / RRs. Subsequently, the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines recommended the establishment of rescue stations / rescue rooms in such a manner in different subsidiary companies that emergent help from these rescue establishments are promptly available within half an hour should an emergent situation arise in any underground mine.

Since then the rescue services have been expanded and modernized by and large as on date 6 rescue stations, 14 Rescue-Rooms-With-Refresher - Training-Facilities and 18 rescue rooms are being maintained by CIL. Modern state of the art rescue equipment have been provided and rescue personnel trained in their use. Modernised training facilities have been provided for training of rescuse personnel under simulated conditions.

**Contract workers in Mahanadi Coalfields**

1156. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of regular employees working in Mahanadi Coalfields;

(b) the total number of contract workers working in the same company;

(c) the jobs being done by the contract workers in these mines;

(d) whether the jobs done by contract workers are of permanent nature; and

(e) the reasons for engaging contract workers in such jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) As reported by Coal India Limited, 22529 regular employees and 7234 contract workers are working in Mahanadi Coalfields as on 1.2.2001.

(c) Work relating to civil construction erection, upkeeping periodic maintenance, transportation and security surveillance are being done by contract workers.

(d) and (e) Certain jobs such as security, transportation, etc. are permanent in nature and are attended to by Ex-servicemen sponsored by Director General of Resettlement. Engagement of contract worker is cost effective and is allowed only where the contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act permits.